

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 075408

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 075408

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

PINT, PFOR, SP, PO

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP, PO

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW OF PRINCE JUAN
CARLOS

1. ARNAUD DE BORCHEGRAVE, NEWSWEEK, CALLED APRIL 2 AT HIS REQUEST ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LAINGEN TO DISCUSS SPAIN AND PORTUGAL. HE SAID THAT THROUGH COMMON ACQUAINTANCES, HE HAD BEEN OFFERED AN INTERVIEW WITH PRINCE JUAN CARLOS. THE INITIAL CONTACT TOOK PLACE IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1974 AND LED TO AGREEMENT THAT HE WOULD DO INTERVIEW APRIL 7. HOWEVER, TELEGRAM HAD JUST BEEN RECEIVED FROM JUAN CARLOS CANCELLING APRIL 7 DATE AND OFFERING NEW MEETING AT UNSPECIFIED FUTURE TIME. DE BORCHEGRAVE SAID HE HAD INTENDED TO CHECK WITH DEPARTMENT ON TRENDS IN SPAIN BEFORE LEAVING TO DO INTERVIEW BUT NOW ALSO WONDERED WHETHER DEPARTMENT COULD SHED ANY LIGHT ON MOTIVES BEHIND THIS SUDDEN CANCELLATION.

2. WE SAID WE HAD NO PARTICULAR VIEW OF THIS BUT
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PAGE 02 STATE 075408

AGREED WITH DE BORCHEGRAVE'S OBSERVATION THAT RECENT

DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL COULD HAVE LED JUAN CARLOS AND HIS ADVISORS TO DECIDE THAT APRIL 7 WAS IN ANY EVENT WRONG TIME FOR PRINCE TO SPELL OUT HIS IDEAS ON SPAIN AND ITS FUTURE. WE ALSO AGREED THAT, EVEN APART FROM QUESTION OF TIMING OF INTERVIEW, SUCH A PUBLIC AIRING OF JUAN CARLOS' VIEWS ON POLITICAL AND OTHER MATTERS WOULD REPRESENT SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURE FROM EARLIER PRACTICE.

3. DE BORCHEGRAVE NOW HAS NO DEFINITE PLANS TO VISIT SPAIN BUT WILL AWAIT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS RE INTERVIEW. HE LOOKS FORWARD TO CALLING ON AMBASSADOR STABLER WHEN HE IS IN MADRID.

4. DE BORCHEGRAVE SAID HE HAD PLANNED VISIT PORTUGAL BUT IN CONNECTION WITH MADRID TRIP. WE ENCOURAGED HIM TO GO TO LISBON IN ANY EVENT IN NEAR FUTURE.

5. DEPT WOULD WELCOME ANY EMBASSY COMMENTS ON PROPOSED NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW AND SUDDEN CANCELLATION. INGERSOLL

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